

1932

# Jonesport's Centennial Celebration

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JONESPORT'S CENTENNIAL

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## Fine Program Draws Big Crowd To Jonesport's Centennial Celebration

Jonesport, Sept. 3 — Jonesport's Centennial celebration was carried out today according to the advertised program under ideal weather conditions and with probably the largest crowd of visitors ever to be here in its hundred years of existence as a separate, incorporated town. The crowd started coming early and enjoyed the morning hours in looking over the town and doing their week end shopping.

A ball game at ten o'clock between the Orono team and Jonesport resulted in a victory for the visitors by a 10-3 score but everyone was so good natured that even a baseball defeat of the local team failed to dampen their spirits in the least.

At noon time the many tents on the ball ground, as well as the other eating places about town, were well patronized. The good food and the very reasonable prices were appreciated by the visiting public and once more everybody remained happy.

Main street near the Opera House and the street and grounds near the library and ball field resembled the midway at the county fair in the large number of tents, stands and shows that vied with each other in selling candy floss, ice cream sandwiches or a shot at the dolls. There was also the encampment of the Passamaquoddy Indians at the baseball grounds which attracted a lot of attention and resulted in the sale of numerous baskets.

At 1:30 p. m. the historical parade formed at the Cove and started its march up Main street. The joyous music of the band, together with the many unusual and surprising floats, brought new thrills to the spectators, as the long line of cars passed in review before the crowd. All of the floats in the parade were very interesting, many were historical and quite a number were beautifully decorated. The Jonesport Band, Boy Scouts, Pythian Sisters and Red Men held a conspicuous part in the line of march. Among the floats were an old colonial room, with fireplace, churn, spinning wheel and two old ladies in their favorite rockers; a hayrack load of modern girls in beach pajamas; an Indian encampment, with real redskins gathered about the burning camp fire; lobster dories, with traps aboard and the oil skin clothed fisherman a-rowing through the streets; a full sized pinky, with mast, cabin, pilot and all, sailing majestically

along; a graceful canoe being paddled by its dusky-hued occupants; John Flett, with his farm team and old fashioned implements; a horse and buggy, with a lady and a gentleman in attire of bygone days; a car completely covered in beautiful dahlias, with the date 1932 worked out in darker blossoms; dozens of other cars were decorated with paper streamers and made a fine appearance. The parade was led by Bart Tucker, in full Indian costume, astride a spirited horse which kept in step with the band music.

One of the most important features of the parade was an open air hearse carrying "Old Man Depression" all neatly boxed, with only his boots showing, and carrying the legend, "to be cremated after the parade," and sure enough, as the parade disbanded, the band, followed by the Red Men, the hearse and a large crowd of mourners, marched to the athletic field where the cremating was gone through with, accompanied by fanciful Indian dancing around the pyre.

A handsome black granite memorial in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town was dedicated after the parade. The exercises included an opening selection by the band, introductory remarks by the chairman of the celebration committee, Elder Newman Wilson; a reading, "In a Hundred Years," by Miss Phyllis Bryant; presentation of the memorial to the town on behalf of the donors, Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Lang of New York and Addison, by Clayton H. Small of Addison, (the message of Mr. and Mrs. Lang to the people of Jonesport will be found in another part of this paper); a response from the citizens of Jonesport was given by Hon. Rufus B. Stevens in his usual pleasing manner. Mr. Stevens stated in part that even as that memorial should stand through the ages, so would the gratitude of the people of Jonesport, for generation after generation, continue to revere the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lang for their very generous and thoughtful gift to this town.

The afternoon baseball game between Dennysville and Jonesport proved very interesting and the good humor of the crowd and the players was manifested in the way the disputes were settled, by laughing them off rather than the usual long drawn out argument method. The visitors held the lead from the start but in the latter part of the game the local team

got under way and commenced to play ball. In the last of the ninth inning and with two out, Jonesport made a whirlwind finish and came within one run of tying the score, which at the final out left the tally at 6-5 in favor of the visiting team. The game was replete with heavy hitting, good base running and spectacular catching and the crowd was well pleased with the entertainment.

The Indians from Pleasant Point put on some out door dancing that was really good and gave one a good insight into the habits and customs of this ancient tribe.

A flower show in the Peabody Memorial Library was open to the public all day and the committee in charge certainly deserves a lot of credit for the fine display. The visitors not only enjoyed the show but it also made a fine place to meet and chat with friends.

In the afternoon, moving pictures were shown in the Opera House and a great many availed themselves of this opportunity of seeing a good show.

At the rally in the Opera House in the evening, the hall was packed to capacity by a crowd bent on enjoying a perfect ending to a perfect day. Newman Wilson led the community singing in his usual pleasant and good humored manner and the people responded in like mood. The Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians gave a number of their ceremonial dances, in full feathered array, to the music of the tom tom and were given generous applause for their part in the program. There was a duet by Mrs. Dale Winslow and Mrs. William Church, Jr., and also singing by the Frost quartet both of which were very pleasing numbers.

The speakers were Ex-Governor Ralph O. Brewster of Dexter, Republican nominee for Congress for this district, Hon. John G. Utterback, of Bangor, Democratic nominee for Congress and Attorney Oscar H. Dunbar of Machias. Mr. Brewster and Mr. Utterback both gave very inspiring patriotic addresses and Mr. Dunbar gave a fine historical reading on Jonesport, which was exceedingly pleasing and educational to the audience.

After all the big events of the day, and one pauses to think things over, it seems as though, after all, the chief charm about the day was the meeting of so many friends and acquaintances. It seemed as though everyone who had ever claimed Jonesport as his habitation was back for this occasion and the hand shake and little chat would bring many pleasant memories to mind.



CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL  
GIFT TO JONESPORT

Jonesport, Aug. 31—The Jonesport Centennial Celebration was given added dignity and prestige this week by the announcement of the gift of a fine black granite memorial marker to be set on the library lawn in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the town. This very thoughtful and generous gift is from Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Lang of New York and Addison, who have the black granite quarry and large polishing mill at the latter place.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang are regular subscribers to the News-Observer and their reading of the history of the town, and the present efforts of its citizens to do something worthwhile to commemorate the past hundred years of progress, prompted them to make this splendid permanent gift to the town.

The site selected, on the library lawn, seems to be an ideal location for the marker as it is the educational and historical center of the town and also very nearly the geographic as well as the population center of the community.

The monument will be of the same size as the war memorial monument, that was set in front of the library a few years ago, but the design and lettering will be a little different to conform with its handsome surface. The material will be that world famous Addison black granite, taken from the Lang quarry. The design was made in the New York office and all of the work, polishing, and lettering will be done at their new Addison finishing plant.

The first instructions were received on Monday of this week by wire, and it is hoped to have the monument set for unveiling on Saturday. If this can be accomplished, it will show what a change has been wrought in the monumental line in a hundred years. Not so very many years ago this would have been a three months job in this locality.

If the monument can be set by Saturday, a fitting program of acceptance of the gift will be carried out on the Peabody Memorial lawn some time during the afternoon. Everybody is invited.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

In connection with the dedication of the memorial stone given to the town on Centennial day, which will bear this inscription:

1832

1932

To commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Jonesport, Feb. 3, 1832

Presented by

Frank T. and Anna S. Mayer Lang  
the donors sent the following message together with their best wishes for a happy day:

Citizens of Jonesport and Friends:

We are pleased to participate in your commemoration exercises, to be with you and rejoice with you in spirit, although unable to attend in person on this memorable occasion.

As a token of our deep interest in the success and welfare of your town, we present to you, Citizens of Jonesport, this memorial to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Incorporation of your town, a memorial that shall stand throughout the ages, an eloquent reminder of the growth of the town from its earliest beginnings to its present state of progress, an incentive to labor for its continued growth and prosperity.

The base of this memorial is in rough rock finish to typify the rough seas and hardships endured by those pioneers and founders in establishing the firm foundation on which later generations might build. This is topped by a surface smooth as the sunny smiling seas that delight the troubled mariner after the storm is spent. And as the smooth, mirror-like polish on the beautiful Maine granite is made possible on the hard, rough rock only by persistent and unrelenting toil, so the untiring labor and perseverance of those rugged pioneers made possible the smooth road for their successors to travel.

The smooth polish remains a permanent safeguard and protection to this memorial against all attacks from the elements, so may your heritage of perseverance and loyalty ever remain with you as an inspiration for the exercise of like deeds of valor and virtue that will insure to your town permanent progress and prosperity.

Frank T. and  
Anna S. Mayer Lang



## 1832--Jonesport Observes Centennial--1932



Main street of seaport town that this week has arranged excellent program in commemoration of its 100th birthday.

### SOME HISTORY ON JONESPORT AUG 29 1932

#### Few Interesting Facts About Seaport Town, 1832-1932.

A history of Jonesport would require a library of many volumes and its reading would require a long time, so instead of attempting a complete history of the town we will endeavor to give only a few of the lesser known facts about the town in our effort to help out on the commemoration of the 100th birthday anniversary of its incorporation.

The native Redmen or Indians as they became known to us were the first settlers, of whom we have definite knowledge and local residents are still finding evidences of their handiwork in many different parts of the town. The more common articles found are the tomahawk and skinning knife made from our native rock by the cunning band of the Redman.

There are also rock stoves, inscriptions, burial places and many other things which point to a long residence here by the natives before our race, so much as made a landing at this port.

One of the first white settlers in town was Francis Cummings, who in 1772 moved here from Damariscotta, Maine, and settled on Roque Island with his family where he spent the winter. In the spring, Mr. Cummings moved to Machias for a two years stay, returning to the Reach in Jonesport in 1775, and finding here two other permanent settlers, Manwarren Beal on Beal's Island and Thomas Kelley on the main land. Thomas Kelley was a brother of Francis Cummings' wife and had come here from Damariscotta, and Manwarren Beal had moved here from Old York, (Maine). Elihu Norton, who was friendly with the Indians and a noted moose hunter moved here from Addison in about 1785, and his moose snares at the creek on the Indian River road gave rise to the name of Snare Creek.

The land through this section was granted to John C. Jones and others by the Massachusetts Commonwealth, Jan. 1, 1789, said to have been given in payment of a sloop of his which was lost in the siege of the British at Castine. If this is so, depression prices must have been on land for the tract comprised the districts of Buck's Harbor, Little River, Jonesboro, Jonesport and Roque Bluffs, a total of 48,160 acres. This vast tract was known as plantation number twenty-two and from it the town of Jonesboro was incorporated March 4, 1809. By mutual consent Jonesport was set off and incorporated as a town by Act of the Legislature, February 3, 1832. In the articles of separation agreed to hold her possession all of the islands and especially Roque Island, so that the town of

Jonesboro might be rid of one of its settlers who greatly annoyed them in town meeting.

At the first town meeting, which was held in a school house on the Indian River road, the sum of \$150 was raised for schools and \$150 more for the support of the poor and all other town expenses.

At an early date the business section of that town was at Indian River. At that place was a large saw mill, ship yard and post office and people from the fishing settlement were obliged to go there for the mail.

The shipbuilding industry and the owning and sailing of vessels from this port was the beginning of prosperity for this town. The first vessel of any size to be built here was a bark built at Roque Island by John Shorey for a Portland firm. Reuben Lamson built the next two vessels on Spruce Island and then Edward A. Mansfield constructed two at the lower village. The most extensive ship-builder and owner in town was the Hon. D. J. Sawyer, who built and owned vessels over a long period of years. Eldridge Watts also built several vessels here in the early years. At one time so many vessels sailed from this port that it was no uncommon thing for vessels to have to wait a week here to get their turn to be outfitted with supplies for a voyage.

It is not generally known that the William Underwood Company was a going concern, preserving food products in Boston in 1821, which was eleven years before Jonesport was incorporated. In 1866 the Underwood Company started business in clams and lobsters here, were burned out in 1869, and was immediately rebuilt under the supervision of George W. Smith. A few years later Charles S. Hinkley was placed in charge of the business and under his supervision, in 1900, the brick factory was completed. Edgar E. Hinkley was manager of the business after his brother resigned and at the present time Willard M. Hinkley, son of Charles S. Hinkley, is in charge of the plant. This factory is one of the best food packing plants in the world today.



# Jonesport in Retrospect

## ---Seaport Town Has Made Great Progress

Industry, Education and Religion  
Show Wonderful Progress in This  
Enterprising Community

At the time the present town of Jonesport was set off from Jonesboro by act of the Legislature, February 3, 1832, the majority of the citizens favored naming the new town Northfield but it was finally decided to call it Jonesport in honor of a Mr. Jones who had drawn up the plans of the town.

In looking back over the one hundred years that have passed since the incorporation of the town of Jonesport, there are a number of things that stand out clearly as having a great bearing on the growth and prosperity of the place. We shall endeavor to call a few of these things to the attention of our readers in this article and will write on others in next week's issue.

In common with many other towns on the Maine coast the one great industry in the early days, outside of the regular farming and fishing occupation, was the building of vessels. Not only did the building of the many craft in this port circulate a lot of money but the owning and sailing of them at that time was very profitable. The captains and sailors lived here built homes and helped with the churches, the stores and the community life of the place. Vessels from here sailed to the far corners of the globe and returned here for winter quarters, or to fit out with supplies for other voyages so that a constant income was being received here from this business.

As the vessel building declined, and finally all but passed out of existence, this hardy race needed new forms of revenue and the invention of the gas engine helped to supply this need. Lobster and line fishing had been carried on here for years in a small way, but sailing or rowing was slow and tedious, the men and their families were obliged to live on bleak and sometimes barren islands so as to be near their traps or fishing grounds. The gas engine changed all this, men could live on the main land and fish anywhere they wished, water transportation became fast and men could accomplish a lot in a day's work. Fish, and especially herring for sardines, and smokers, could now be transported quickly and cheaply, western markets were opened up to the lobster fishermen and a new era of prosperity was started.

Sardine factories were built here soon after the industry was started in Eastport and this developed into such a central and sure place for fish that the William Underwood Company built a brick building in 1900. The Underwood factory is one of the finest food packing plants in the world and insures a permanent industry for Jonesport. The goods of this plant, which consist principally of sardines, clams, clam chowder, fish chowder and other products of the sea, are sold all over the United States, and in many foreign countries.

The pioneers of Jonesport were a God fearing people and never, unto this day have they been negligent in providing for places of worship for the Divine. In the earlier days, meetings were held in the schoolhouses at Indian River, Sawyer's Cove and in the vestry at West Jonesport. As time went on and the different church societies increased in membership and strength, larger and better buildings were erected until at the present time the Congregational, Latter Day Saint, Union Church and Reformed Baptist are as fine places of worship as can be found in towns much larger than Jonesport.

Elder J. D. Adams of Pennsylvania came to Maine at the time of the Civil War to secure converts to his idea of establishing a Church of the Messiah at Palestine, hoping thus to bring about the restoration to Christendom of the Holy Land. For two years Mr. Adams worked in this vicinity and finally, with 156 converts, thirty-six from Jonesport, he set sail from the steamboat wharf at West Jonesport on the 11th of August, 1866, in the bark Nellie Chapen, bound for Palestine, the Land of Promise. The Nellie Chapen had just been launched from the Knowles ship yard at Addison, and she carried a part cargo of lumber which was used in building their new homes in a beautiful loca-

tion, surrounded by an orange grove near the city of Jaffa. After about a year of hardship, crop failure and loss of confidence in their leader, the colony decided to disband and the larger part of its members returned to this country. Some of the members of that famous colony, who went from here as children, and one who was born there, are leading citizens of our town today.

On Sept. 9, 1893, the people of Jonesport met for the purpose of forming a library association and five days later 99 members had joined, at a fee of one dollar each, officers were elected and the association made permanent. Many gifts of money and books were received and the growth was steady and fast. In 1900 it was made a free public library and several years later the present fine brick building was erected as a gift and a memorial from the family of Colonel Oliver Peabody of Boston, who owned a summer cottage at Loon Point and who spent his vacations here for many years.

After a long drawn out fight and before several sessions of the State Legislature, the people of Beals secured a separation of their island from Jonesport and were incorporated as a town on July 11, 1925. It is interesting to note that whereas the County of Washington as a whole lost nearly 4,000 inhabitants in the period between the census of 1920 and that of 1930, that the Jonesport-Beals census showed a gain of twenty-nine people. The passing years have done much to heal the feeling between the different sections of the town and on Saturday, Sept. 3, 1932, the people of Jonesboro and Beals will unite with the people of Jonesport in one of the best celebrations held here in a hundred years.



Special Despatch to Sunday Telegram

Jonesport, Sept. 3.—Jonesport, incorporated as a town Feb. 3, 1832, brought its Centennial Week celebration to a close today. Up to a few years ago Jonesport was little known outside the confines of Maine but through the medium of the radio broadcasts of Seth Parker (Phillips H. Lord) and Mother Parker from their little white cottage on the shores of Moose-A-Bec Reach, the town has become known in all corners of the globe. While Jonesport has produced its share of citizens who have gained prominence in the various fields of endeavor, Mr. Lord without doubt has done more than any other one man to put Jonesport on the map.

Jonesport, originally part of a grant of land to John C. Jones and others by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 1, 1789, was intended, it was said, to reimburse Mr. Jones for the loss of a sloop in the siege of the British at Castine. If so, he was generously rewarded, as the grant, aside from Jonesport, comprised the towns of Machiasport, Jonesboro and Roque Bluffs, a total of almost 50,000 acres. This great tract of land, Plantation No. 22, was incorporated a township March 4, 1809, and was the 176th township in the Province of Maine to be chartered. Its separation from the mother-town of Jonesboro was a foregone conclusion, owing to the distance from Jonesboro village and the increase in population and wealth in the coast section of the town.

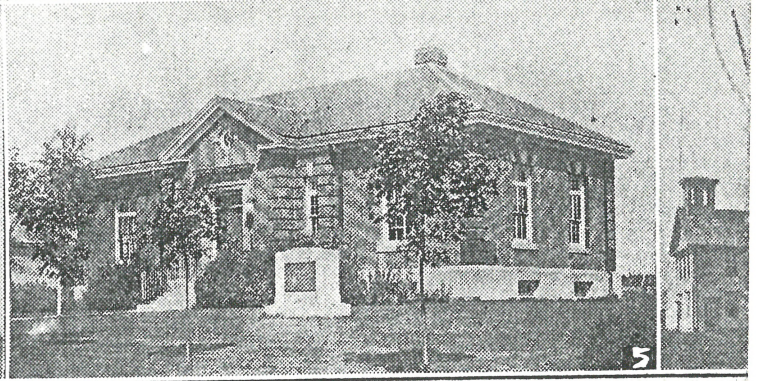
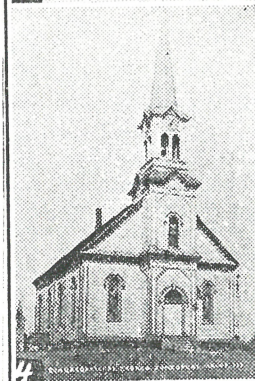
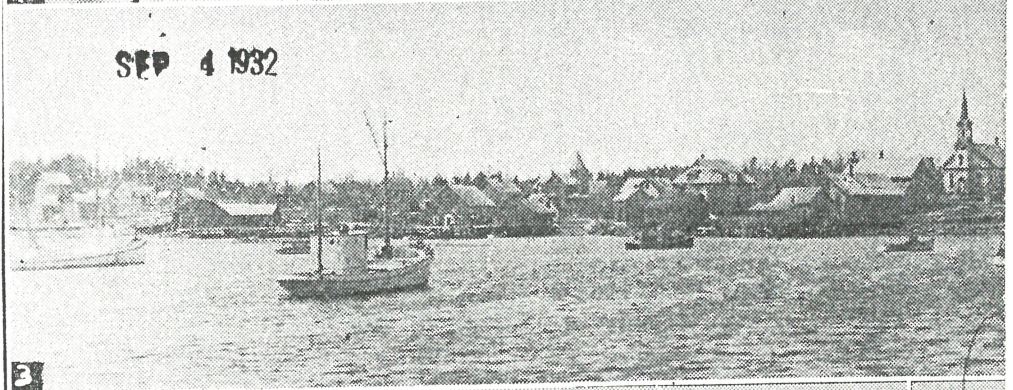
A condition which went far towards reconciling Jonesboro to the separation was that Jonesport agreed to take all the island, which rid her of one of the inhabitants regarded as particularly troublesome. While it is not known that Jonesport was ever the site of an Indian village, it is sure that the Passamaquoddy Indians often made their camps along its shores and marshes where they gathered sweet grass from which they weave baskets during the long winter months. The first knowledge of any white settler here was about 1773 when Francis Cummings came with his wife, Mercy Kelley from Damariscotta. Before coming to the mainland they spent one winter at Roque Island.

On arriving here, the Cummings family found two other white settlers, on the mainland, Thomas Kelly, and on the island of Beals, Manwarren Beal. About 1780 Elihu Norton, who originally came from Edgartown, Mass., moved here from Addison and in 1781 married Sally Beal, daughter of Manwarren Beal. Later we find that John Sawyer moved here from Limington; still later Edward A. Mansfield came from Portland. Mr. Mansfield had the distinction of being the town's first postmaster. At an early date we find the Union Church, erected by the efforts of the settlers. Since that time four other churches have been built, and the Union Church is now used by the Cahoosic Tribe of Red Men as a hall.

Through its fisheries and accompanying industries as well as shipbuilding in the early days Jonesport's affairs have always been closely connected with the sea; it is within easy reach of the finest fishing grounds on the North Atlantic Coast and at one time lobsters were caught in such quantities that they were canned here. At present they are shipped to Boston and other ports by well-smacks and on ice by motor trucks. The curing and smoking of fish has always been and is today a thriving industry. Sardine canning, however, takes the lead, millions upon millions of cans of this delicious sea food being shipped from Jonesport every year, reaching practically every city and hamlet in the country. Some 60 years ago the Wm. Underwood Co., of Bos-

# Jonesport Brings Centennial

## Typical Old Maine Town, Which Has Been Made Famous by Seth Parker, Was Incorporated

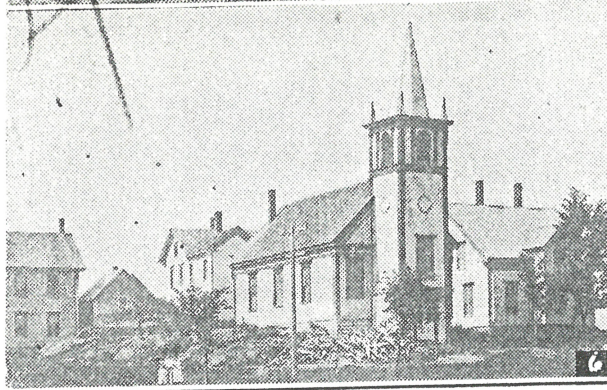
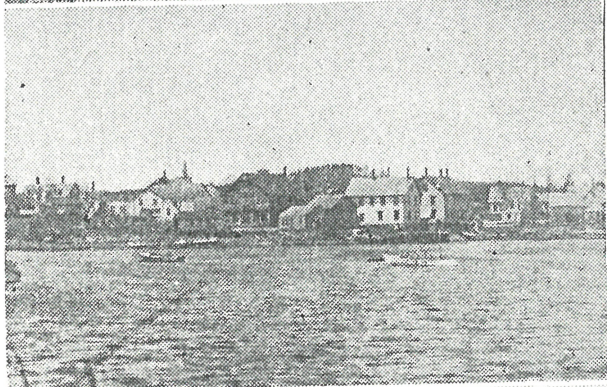
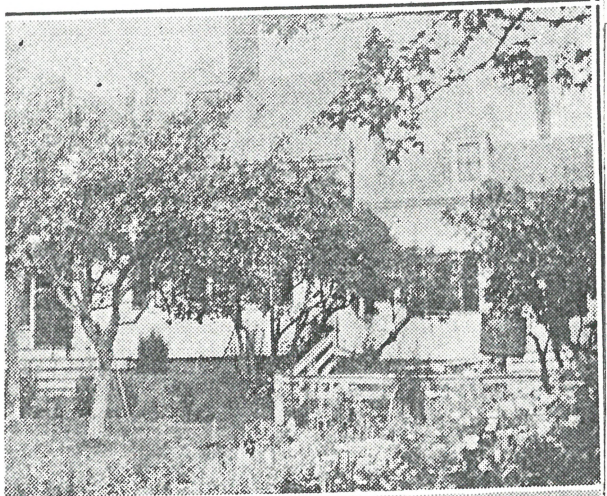


No. 1—Seth and Mother Parker at home. No. 2—Moose-A-Bec House, first hotel in Jonesport. No. 3—An unusually fine picture of Jonesport, showing the waterfront. No. 4—Congregational Church. No. 5—Peabody Memorial Library and Soldiers' Memorial. No. 6—The first church to be built in Jonesport, now known as the Union Church.



# Week To A Close

ous World-Over By Phillips H.  
d Feb. 3, 1832



ton began handling lobsters and clams in Jonesport and, since that time the company has erected the largest and finest sardine packing plant in the world. Within recent years the blueberry industry has taken an important place in the industrial life of the town; many thousands of cases of canned blueberries and crates of the fresh berries are shipped to the markets each year.

Education in Jonesport has kept pace with the growth of its industries, and today Jonesport can boast of an excellent school system, with modern buildings. The high school

was organized in 1894 and a large percentage of the graduates have pursued higher education, entering practically every profession. One of the show places of the town is the Peabody Memorial Library, erected by Mrs. Oliver Peabody of Boston in memory of her husband, Col. Oliver Peabody. In 1893 an association for the establishment of a free public library was organized; however, it was not until 1916, after years of hard labor, that its purpose was realized. The association is still active and each year presents the library with a number of new books.

No community is complete without its fraternal organizations and we find in Jonesport: Masonic Lodge, P. & A. M.; Cahoon's Tribe of Red Men; Rumery Chapter, Order of Eastern Star; Knights of Pythias, and the Pythian Sisters.

In 1925, Jonesport was the largest town in Washington County but by an act of the Legislature of that year Beals became an independent community. Jonesport has ever been loyal to the Government and whenever the call to arms has sounded, her citizens have always responded wholeheartedly. In the first naval engagement of the Revolution, which occurred at Machias, we find the name of Elihu Norton mentioned and tradition tells us that if it had not been for the influence which he had with the Indians, they would have assisted the British instead of the Colonists in that engagement, and so through each war in which the Country has engaged we find the names of Jonesport citizens among the heroes. With pride in her past and trust and confidence in the future, Jonesport today carries on as her forefathers did.



## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN TOWN OF JONESPORT

Soon after the incorporation of the town, school districts were established within the town with one school to a district. The people living within the district were responsible for the support, maintenance and direction of the school with very little, if any, supervision from without. The administration of the school was entrusted to one from within the district called the "School Agent." At first the school year was very short. The school was operated during the late fall and winter months so as to accommodate the older boys who followed the sea during the better part of the year. The enrollment was unusually large, a teacher often having under her charge 75-80 pupils of abilities varying from first to ninth grade.

The schools under the district plan of organization were of the ungraded type and included for the most part those subjects now offered in the elementary schools (grades one to eight). It was not until the late eighties or early nineties that high school education came to be recognized as such. This early high school was at first similar to our present day grammar schools with the addition of elementary courses in algebra, geometry, history, government, and later the introduction of courses in the physical sciences, foreign languages and commercial branches.

The district system within the town proved to be inadequate and finally was abolished, or taken over by the town. Soon after being taken over by the town the elementary schools were graded—grades one to nine and later one to eight, with four years of high school, which at this time incorporated in its curriculum most of the subject matter now usually offered in regular four year high schools.

Although the high school was first instituted in the late 80's or early 90's, it was not until October 4, 1909, that Jonesport High School was recognized as of A grade by the State Department of Education. The school has since been placed on the approved list of the New England College Entrance Board, which fact entitles its graduates to admission without examinations to several of the larger of the colleges and universities of New England.

Jonesport High School counts among its alumni 365 men and women, 215 of whom have pursued their education beyond the high school. Although its alumni are to be found in all professions such as law, medicine and ministry, by far the greater number have entered the teaching profession. Many of its alumni have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields.

In recent years due emphasis has been placed on the extra-curricular activities of the school. Most prominent among these activities are athletics, dramatics, public speaking, clubs and school orchestra. The athletic teams have usually made a creditable showing in competition with other teams in this part of the state. Dramatics and public speaking have always occupied a very prominent place in the activities of the school. In competition with other high schools of the county at the Prize Speaking Contest sponsored by the Washington State Normal School, Jonesport High School has always placed its entrants in the finals, and on two occasions within the last five or six years has won the cup.

The town has contributed liberally to the support of its schools. It has just recently completed a modern five room elementary school building. All of the latest ideas on heat, light and ventilation have been incorporated in this new structure.

Adequate play-grounds have been provided and equipped to insure greater physical activity for all pupils under teacher supervision. The schools have sponsored a health program which provides for physical examinations of all pupils with follow-up work. These examinations stress the eyes, ears, nose, throat, mouth, weight and posture. A pupil who qualifies in all these respects is known as a "seven point child." About eighty-five pupils qualified as seven point pupils this last year.

The citizens of Jonesport take great pride in the rather rapid growth and development of its school system. Its citizens derive much satisfaction from the accomplishments of its young men and women who have been graduated from its schools and made good in their chosen work. Its people are a forward-looking people who seek to pass on to their children greater educational opportunities than they themselves enjoyed.

# History of Jonesport Shows Splendid Record of Progress During Century 1832-1932

For the past seven weeks several citizens of Jonesport and members of the editorial staff of the Union-Republican have been busily at work preparing material for this Centennial edition. It has been impossible in that brief length of time to attempt to assemble any but the most important facts but those who have taken part in this work sincerely hope that the citizens and friends of Jonesport will find this Centennial issue interesting and suitable to the occasion.

During the century from 1600 to 1700 white people were beginning to come into this section of the world and while they are known to have settled temporarily in Calais as early as 1604, it is not known exactly how early the first white person set foot on the shores of Jonesport. In 1772 Francis Cummings came from Damariscotta with his wife, Mercy Kelley, her father, Aaron Kelley, and his own daughter, Annie and settled on Roque Island. Mr. Kelley died during the winter and was buried on the island and in the spring the family moved to Machias. Two years later Mr. Cummings went back and settled at the Reach in Jonesport, and in all probability was the first man to live in Jonesport. Other families soon followed and at the present day many descendants

of these brave and enterprising pioneers are still residing in Jonesport.

As soon as one member of a family settled in town, his near kindred were want to follow. This is true of the Beals, Cummings, Sawyers and Nortons and accounts for the large number of families now in town bearing these honored names. Other names of early settlers that have come down through the years are Dunham, Dobbins, Wallace, Alley, MacDonald, Dickey, Oliver, Hinkley, Smith, Donovan, Hopkins, Farnsworth, Lamson, Rogers, Hutchinson, Church, Drisko and McKenzie.

The land through this section was granted to John C. Jones and others by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Jan. 1, 1789. Mr. Jones is said to have received this gift in payment for a sloop of his, which was lost in the siege of the British at Castine. This gift included not only Jonesport, but several other towns and districts, a total of 48,160 acres. This great tract of land was incorporated as a township, March 4, 1809, and Jonesport was set off 23 years later on February 3, 1832.

The town increased in population very slowly at first and at an early date the business section was at Indian River where there was a large saw mill and shipyard. There were no highways then and journey to other parts of the state were made largely on foot. The first steamboat arrived in 1853. Horses were few in number and the first person in town to own one of these animals was Abraham Norton. Clement Hopkins and Elias Hinkley were the first to operate a mercantile store in Jonesport. The nearest post office then was at Columbia Falls and the mail came once a week from Bangor.

A few years later through the generosity of the family of Col. Oliver Peabody of Boston, former summer residents of the town, the handsome brick structure was erected. Mrs. D. D. Kelley, the present librarian has served in this capacity for many years.

The population of Jonesport in 1850 was 826 and a steady growth was shown for over a half a century with the peak reached in 1920 when the census figures were 2129. During the next ten years Beals was incorporated as a separate town but the combined census of the two towns shows still further gain during that period.



# Seth Parker Has Brought Fame To Jonesport with His Inspiring Broadcasts Every Sunday Evening

By Harry White

Phillips Haynes Lord is the son of Dr. Albert J. Lord, minister of the First Congregational Church of Meriden, Connecticut. He was born in Hartford, Vermont, July 13, 1902, but within a year the family had moved to Meriden.

As a boy Mr. Lord spent his summers in Ellsworth, Maine, and the greater part of this time was given to riding throughout the countryside with his grandfather, Hosia B. Phillips, who was one of the old school of New England gentlemen. As they rode together in the old buggy, his grandfather told him of folks he had known and it was Mr. Lord's privilege to meet many of these characters who lived miles off the beaten track. It was on these rides that he came to know and understand the men of the soil to such an extent that he has been able to interpret their philosophy of life with an accuracy which no other writer has yet done.

In 1925 Mr. Lord graduated from Bowdoin College at Brunswick, Maine. He was unusually quick in his studies, but did not lead his class because his interests were many and diversified. He was athletic, full of mischief, love to do business on the side, and in other words, was just a plain full-blooded American young man. In talking with a classmate we find that his outstanding characteristics at this time were one hundred percent fight and determination to win whatever he went into, and an unlimited amount of vitality.

Although Mr. Lord was not a scholar by nature, he was appointed principal of the Plainville High School in Plainville, Connecticut, four days after graduation. He was then only twenty-two years old, but he had heard of the opportunity and went after it with the same enthusiasm and disregard for obstacles which had marked his col-

lege career. Perhaps his determination was whetted by the fact that his girlhood sweetheart, Sophia Mecorney, was teaching in the grammar school of the same town, but the fact remains he was appointed to the position, married Miss Mecorney two weeks later, and in the fall Mr. and Mrs. Lord started instructing at the high school.

Of how Mr. Lord came to New York two years later, not knowing a soul in the city, and of his fight to break into writing, you have probably read, but the part we are most interested in is how Seth Parker finally was born.

One evening Mr. Lord happened to hear a radio program with a country setting and immediately realized it was not genuine, one which was built around neighbors who went to an old-fashioned singing school each week. He remembered a little town up on the coast of Maine he had heard his grandfather tell about; so he chose Jonesport for the setting and then by elimination of names he chose Seth Parker.

When the script was completed he persuaded a few acquaintances to rehearse it with him and a few weeks later this program was presented from a small station in New York. It was immediately successful.

Mr. Lord did not delay a moment but taking the little money he had been able to save up, he rented a small office and started selling the scripts to radio stations throughout the country. No one had ever thought of doing this before, but before very long fifteen stations had gotten together Seth Parker casts and were presenting these weekly programs with tremendous success.

By this time rumors had spread to the National Broadcasting Co. that Seth Parker was fast becoming a very popular character in radio, and so an invitation was extended to Mr. Lord to meet with the Planning Board and tell of his work. The Board usually grants about ten minutes or so for such an interview, but this time it sat for an hour and a half, laughing heartily and now and then wiping a tear as this young man fairly bubbled over with enthusiasm. The result was that he was given an opportunity to present a trial program.

The following week this same group sat for half an hour as a Seth Parker program was presented upstairs in the studio and was wired down to the Board room. It was good, they decided, very good, and then suddenly, one member spoke up and said, "That was a religious program we were listening to. Do you realize that?"

He was right, too. Mr. Lord had not presented "Seth Parker's Old Fashioned Singing School" at all, but had created an entirely new idea using the same characters as the Singing School. It was a religious program they had been listening to, but it had been so cleverly and beautifully done, they had not stopped to realize that it was anything more than just an entertaining feature.

Now the fact that it was religious may not seem like an important point the average listener, but there are thousands and thousands of listeners to a network program, and they represent many, many creeds. What would these listeners say to a religious program in which there was plenty of humor and religion was discussed freely? It was playing with dynamite and no one realized it any better than the members of



the Planning Board but they had faith in Mr. Lord's ability and finally told him to present a meeting over the air as a test.

The best proof of the way this test was received is that, from that day to this, Mr. Lord has not even been asked to submit a script to the Broadcasting Company for approval; for he has handled this delicate problem of religion in a wonderful way. Six months after the first broadcast, a well-known New York radio critic made the statement, "I am repelled by religious services over the air and now I find I've been a devout follower of one for six months and didn't realize it was religion to which I was listening."

The program does have more religion in it now, however, than when it first started. This is because Mr. Lord has certain definite ideals, which he has developed from time to time.

He believes that religion is the result of environment, that those who are born in church-going families in most cases prefer the church of their fathers more because of convenience than because of convictions; that those who come of parents outside of church circles are not reached and the reason is that religion is too closely associated with the church. To use one of Mr. Lord's own illustrations, "The church is a good store house for religion, but you should stock up with an ample supply to take home with you."

Seth Parker believes that religion is tangible; that it is a kind word, a thoughtful deed and is not something apart from every day life.

He has probably done more to make religion a part of the American home than has any other man.

What some of the leading men of America say of Seth Parker:

"There could be no more persuasive evidence of the powerful influence for good, which the 'Seth Parker' broadcasts are exerting than the fact that while they are frankly religious in character, four million people tune-in regularly to listen to them."

# The Churches of Jonesport

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

By E. A. Worcester

The early meetings in town were first held in private dwelling houses. Here the people assembled, and one of their number or some travelling clergyman assumed the leadership of the meeting. Later the people met in the school-house at Indian River or Sawyer's Cove and at West Jonesport. The first building erected for Church purposes, was the Union Church at the Lower Village which was begun in 1860 and completed the following year. For the first few years this building was occupied by the Baptist and Universalist Societies; later by the Congregational and Latter Day Saints.

The Union Congregational Church of Jonesport, now known as the Sawyer Memorial Church was organized September 11, 1877. Previous to this, the people had Congregational preaching, for this was a branch of the same denomination at Machias. The Rev. D. S. Holbrook, Rev. Marshall R. Peck, Rev. Lemuel Hastings and Rev. A. F. Newton had labored with the people in the intervening years between 1873 and 1877. The meetings were held in the Union Church on 1886 of their present beautiful building, which was a gift of the late Hon. D. J. Sawyer and wife. The cost of the church was approximately \$9000. It was dedicated June 7, 1887. In 1877 a noted evangelist from New York, Rev. John Vassar visited Jonesport. He and the people's pastor, Rev. S. Thurston, immediately began an earnest work in the Church. The result was the organization mentioned above, at which time forty-two became members. The first pastor was Rev. G. S. Chapin. Mr. Chapin remained with the people until the last of March, 1881.

At the present time the church is without a pastor, the Rev. Dana A. Lane having resigned early in the summer because of ill health. The present membership is 108. The Sunday School connected with the church is a large one and under the supervision of Mrs. E. B. Sawyer is doing an earnest and efficient work.

## THE L. D. S. CHURCH

By Elder Newman Wilson

The Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints greets the turn of the century in a prosperous condition, spiritually, in membership and financially. The membership of the church numbers more than 360 including members from Beals and there are over 100 in the Sunday School. The present edifice of the church was completed in 1912 and has a seating capacity of 300.

The church was founded in the year 1869 when Elder T. W. Smith came from New Jersey to Jonesport. The organization was not completed, however, before Elder Smith went away but the next year Elder Josiah Ells came from Pennsylvania and baptized five people.

Under the guidance of Elder Joseph Lakeman who came from Grand Manan and organized a branch of the church, many souls were united with the Society. He was followed by Elder B. K. Rogers who worked diligently until his death in 1879, when J. S. Walker, who was Priest of the branch was chosen to preside and was soon ordained as Elder.

Among the missionaries who have since served the church were W. H. Kelley, Elijah Banta, I. M. Smith, F. M. Sheahy, U. W. Greene, T. C. Kelley, J. C. Foss, W. F. Gowell, Joseph Luff, J. A. Koehler, S. F. Cushman, John F. Sheahy, F. J. Ebeling, Orval Thompson, and H. A. Chelline. Elder Newman Wilson has served during the past five years.

The Sunday School was organized in 1886 with 18 members and the first superintendent was Mrs. E. M. Walker.

## REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reformed Baptist church of Jonesport was founded several years ago. The present pastor is Rev. Harry S. Wilson and the church has a substantial membership.

# Reach Once Filled with Beautiful Schooners, Many of them Built in Famous Down East Seaport Town

9/11/32  
By Mrs. O. W. Look

The Jonesport Centennial would not be complete without a word in regard to the shipping of the past. Shipping was Jonesport's first industry, and this town was one of the most important shipping ports on the coast.

The Sawyer Shipyard was located where the Wm. Frost Boat Shop stands, and many smart looking ships were launched from this yard.

The Emeline G. Sawyer was the first ship built in Jonesport in 1860 by the Hon. D. J. Sawyer and named for Mrs. Sawyer and commanded by Capt. James Dobbin. Other ships built by Mr. Sawyer were the Clara E. Rogers, commanded by Capt. Napoleon Rogers, this vessel was named for Mrs. Rogers, who is still living and one of our oldest and most respected citizens. The Ida May was commanded by Capt. Thos. Drisko, The Nelson by Capt. Keene.

The 2nd. D. J. Sawyer by Capt. O. W. Look. A few of the Captains who commanded Jonesport built

vessels were Capt. B. S. Look, Capt. James Bryant, Capt. George Jenkins, Capt. Frank Lamson, Capt. Butler Dobbin, Capt. James Lamson. "Some have gone down to the sea in ships, that we on the land might live."

The Mansfield Shipyard was located below C. H. Mansfield's store, and Capt. Edward Mansfield built two beautiful schooners, The Frances Ellen and The Olive.

Chas. F. W. Barker one of Jonesport's most prominent citizens of days gone by, built the schooner, Ada Barker, named for his daughter, his shipyard was located in the Creek near Henry Morris house.

Lewis Watts was the master ship builder of Jonesport, a ship carpenter of his ability was hard to find in the whole country.

An interesting incident happened at the time the Emeline G. Sawyer was built, Capt. James Dobbin decided he could not sail the vessel on shares, but agreed to go for

forty dollars per month, later the vessel chartered for the government at Hampden Roads during the Civil War and in a very short time paid for herself.

The many vessels that were built in Jonesport and the many captains that commanded them are too numerous to mention but many people living now can remember when the Reach was full of these beautiful schooners. Now it is a rare sight to see a three master anchored in our harbor.

There are several pictures of vessels built in Jonesport and they can be seen by Centennial visitors by inquiring of the Centennial Committee.